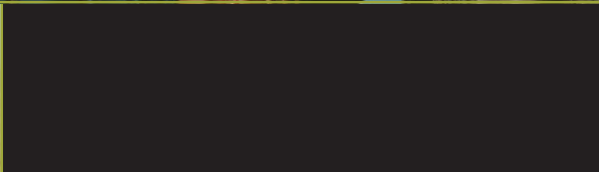


Summer 2012

THE WOLVERINE GUARD



N I S T A N

A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard

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TAG TALK

★★ From the desk of The Adjutant General ★★



It is with a heavy heart that I write this edition of the TAG Talk. As some of you may know, the Michigan Army National Guard lost its 21st Soldier. Sgt. Kyle McClain was a member of the 1433rd Engineer Company and was killed in Afghanistan on August 1, 2012. My thoughts and prayers will continue to be with his family as well as the other families who have lost an American Hero of their own. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Losing a member of our own Guard family just reminds us of our priorities and how important each and every one of you is important to the organization. That is why recent efforts have been made to ensure the Michigan National Guard and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs are set up to succeed for many years to come. With the help of the full-time staff directorates and many others, we have developed our strategic plan for the way ahead.

'Forward on to 2016' lays out our strategic goals, mission, vision and values. All of which I wish to share with you here:

Our DMVA Strategic Goals

- Goal 1: Focus on people and relationships, 'the profession'
- Goal 2: Focus on core relationships
- Goal 3: Improve installation and facility capabilities to enhance utilization and services
- Goal 4: Develop and improve premier infrastructure
- Goal 5: Think like a business to pursue resources in support of full-spectrum military operations and services
- Goal 6: Enhance and expand veteran's services

Our DMVA Mission:

- Provide relevant and ready operational military forces, consistent with our values, in support of our state and nation.
- Provide support to military personnel, civilian employees, families, retirees, and veterans.

Our DMVA Vision:

To be acknowledged as a premier military and veterans organization meeting state and national requirements. To be recognized as the destination of choice for full-spectrum operations and four-season joint training.

Our DMVA Values:

Army National Guard
Loyalty
Duty
Respect
Selfless Service
Honor
Integrity
Personal Courage

Air National Guard
Integrity first
Service before self
Excellence in all we do

It is my hope that with these goals and values in mind, Michigan will become the state that others look to for guidance and what right looks like. Thank you to each and every one of you for your assistance in leading the way towards the future. And thank you to the families who stand beside their Soldiers and Airmen everyday and support their desire to serve such a great state and nation.

Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais

Bullets

Free National Park Service Passes for Military

The National Park Service will issue free annual passes that are good for admission to National Parks, Bureau of Land Management Land, Forest Service areas, and Fish and Wildlife Service areas. These free passes are for all active service members and their dependents. The only requirement to obtain your free pass is to show your active or dependent CAC/ID card at any location on the list that issues annual passes. For information go to, <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/military.html>.



New Helmet Law

Gov. Snyder has signed Senate Bill 291 into law. The law, with immediate effect, eliminates the requirement for motorcycle riders to wear a helmet that meets U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) safety standards provided those motorcyclists/riders meet stipulations in the law to do so. Commanders and leaders need to be aware Michigan's new law does not change training and protective equipment requirements in military regulations. AR 385-10, The Army Safety Program, paragraph 11-9d(1), requires DOT-approved helmet use by civilian employees in duty status, military personnel at all times, and anyone on military-controlled facilities property. Air Force Instruction (AFI) 91-207(3.4.2.3.1) has the same requirement.

The Michigan Army National Guard lost four Soldiers in motorcycle accidents last fiscal year despite Soldiers wearing helmets in all but one case. The use of proper personal protective equipment is critical, both on and off duty.



PNC Bank Career Opportunities for Servicemembers

Did you know that an estimated 200,000 people exit the military in the U.S. each year? That's almost the same as the number of college graduates! Attracting military, veterans and reservists to PNC reflects our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. That's why we launched a career site just for former members of the military. Check it out at <http://www.pncsites.com/careers/military/index.html?sf5632553=1>

For more information on jobs and career opportunities see page 21!



This edition of the Wolverine Guard showcases the units of the Michigan National Guard currently deployed to Afghanistan. Each unit has a specific mission and role. Each unit no more important than another. This issue also highlights the Michigan Army National Guard's 21st Fallen Hero, Sgt. Kyle McClain. Spc. McClain was a member of the 1433rd Engineer Company. You can see more on the mission of his unit on page 10.

Commander in Chief
Rick Snyder

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Burt Francisco

Commander, Michigan Air National Guard
Maj. Gen. Robert Johnston

Assistant Adjutant General Future Missions, Air
Brig. Gen. James R. Wilson

Assistant Adjutant General, Installations
Brig. Gen. Michael Stone

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Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert Husband

State Public Affairs Officer
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★★★ *From the desk of the* ★★★★★
★★★ *Assistant Adjutant General,* ★★★★★
Air

ATAG TALK



There is an old Chinese curse that states, “May you live in interesting times.” We in the Michigan Air National Guard are certainly experiencing that curse as the Air Force has sought to take our A-10s and C-27s, while reducing our manning by more than 800 personnel in FY 13. While Michigan is not the only state being targeted with cuts, we have certainly been saddled with more than our fair share. The good news is that we are not taking this sitting down!

General Vadenais and the Governor’s office in conjunction with our Congressional delegation have worked tirelessly to turn this around. In this day of tight budgets it makes no sense to cut the most efficient and experienced component of the total force. Through a lot of effort on the part of many folks, including NGAM and NGAUS, this message is gaining great traction. As I write this, the U.S. House of Representatives has attached an amendment to the Presidential Budget preventing the Air Force from making any cuts to the Air National Guard. We expect the Senate to attach a similar amendment to their budget proposal which leads me to be cautiously optimistic that we will retain our force structure for FY 13.

The work is not done! Many of us believe that the answer to our budget woes is not to cut the Air National Guard but to grow it. As you all know, we are a great value for America and should be taking on new missions in this time of fiscal restraint. You can be sure that your leadership, both military and civilian, will continue to fight to do what is best for the nation and the tax payer.

This will be my last article as Commander of the Michigan Air National Guard as I will be retiring this fall. It has been a wonderful career and truly an honor to have served with the talented and dedicated Airmen and Soldiers of the Michigan National Guard over these past 34 plus years. Thanks to all the leaders that have mentored me during my career and to all the great friends Debbie and I have made over the years!

I am excited about the future of the Michigan Air National Guard! I leave knowing that we have an outstanding team in place to lead this organization in the years ahead. Combined with the exceptional young men and women that have come into our units over the past few years, I know we will be primed and ready for any tasking that comes our way. Thank you for your service, be good leaders and wingmen, always keep the shiny side up and check six!

Maj. Gen. Robert H. Johnston



Things have indeed come full circle!! I first wrote to you at the onset of my three-year tour as the State Command Sergeant Major and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Adjutant General. At that time, I talked about my commitment to moving the Michigan National Guard from “Good to Great” as we pursue excellence in supporting our Soldiers, Airmen and their families. I am pleased to offer this final reflection of notable efforts to advance this agenda.

The State Partnership Program with Liberia was a highlight of my tenure. This effort entails the offering of our Soldier support in developing the capacity of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL); with a goal of assisting them in realizing increased independence and effectiveness. Soldiers have consistently shared that this has proven to be quite a rewarding experience. They recognize the critical role they play in shaping the military future of this underdeveloped country. The personal honor of meeting President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first elected female head of state in Africa, is a memory I will cherish for years to come.

Strengthening our culture by increasing the diversity presence within our senior leadership, as well as throughout the ranks of the Michigan National Guard (MING), was a clear priority when I assumed this role. I talked at length about the power and impact of diverse voices and views in meeting our shared objectives. While we must continue to “walk the talk,” I am pleased that I was able to see more females and Soldiers of color who are positioned to help guide our future direction. This will prove essential as we strive to be competitive in a global society. As Michigan’s first African American State Command Major, I was often moved by the expressions of pride that were shared by numerous individuals who represented the spectrum of our diversity. The pride was less about me as an individual, and more about what my presence in this position implied about us as an organization. I was often humbled, and always grateful, to serve in this capacity.

Among the most memorable and important activities during my term involved visiting our Soldiers and Airmen throughout the nation and the world. Michigan military personnel are making a difference, and I was fortunate to have the opportunity to see this first hand. Whether it was in Michigan, Texas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Afghanistan, Liberia or Kuwait...the Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were always ready, willing and able to serve our country with an unwavering resilience and commitment. Visiting our Wounded Warriors in Walter Reed Medical Center, Rock Island, Ill., and Fort Sam Houston, Texas impressed upon me the ultimate sacrifice, without any regrets, that defines the Michigan National Guard.

I want to close by extending my personal gratitude to those who believed in and supported me throughout my tour. Major General Culter for selecting me for this esteemed position and Major General Vadnais for allowing me to serve out my three-year appointment. To my CSM and SGM brothers and sisters, Officers, NCO’s, Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, both active and retired...thank you for your camaraderie. Thank you to my father for his sacrifice as a disabled veteran, my very proud mother may she “rest in peace” and last, but certainly not least, thank you to my wife and family for believing in me and supporting me through this once-in-a-lifetime journey.

Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert P. Husband

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE 125TH INFANTRY BATTALION IN ACTION

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPILATION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY JOURNALISTS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS OF THE 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM ABOUT TASK FORCE VIKING, A UNIT COMPRISED OF THE MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, 1ST BATTALION, 125TH INFANTRY AND FOX COMPANY, 237TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION. THE INTENT IS TO GIVE THE READER A VIEW OF WHAT TF VIKING UNITS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN AFGHANISTAN THUS FAR.

Task Force Viking has two missions, a security mission in support of the International Security Assistance Force and an advisory mission to the Afghan National Police. TF Viking is based in the Northern Afghanistan province of Kunduz and is controlled by Regional Command-North for operational purposes.

Company D, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, based in Baghlan Province, Afghanistan, conducted key leader engagements on March 15, 2012 with Afghan civic leaders ranging from the District Governor of Doshi down to village chiefs. KLEs are conducted to understand the concerns and needs of Afghan civic leaders and citizens in the geographic area a unit operates in. They also serve to build good relations between the Afghan population and U.S. forces. The KLE allowed Company D leadership to formulate programs to address the needs and concerns of the local Afghan population and plan their operations with the safety of the Afghans in mind.

TF Viking units depend on vehicles such as the Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle to move Soldiers over the rough, mountainous Afghan terrain. The maintenance Soldiers of Fox Company, 237th BSB work continuously around the clock to insure the vehicles are fully mission capable for any task TF Viking is assigned. Sgt. 1st Class William Palmer, the battalion maintenance supervisor, stressed that maintenance is an operator and maintainer team effort, "Preventative maintenance checks and services is everyone's responsibility. There is no end of day when it comes to maintenance, only pauses in-between."

Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company D, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry conducted combat patch ceremonies at FOB Kunduz and Combat Outpost Khilaguy on March 21, 2012. According to Army Regulation 670-1, the combat patch ceremony denotes that a unit "has actively participated in, or supported ground combat operations against hostile forces in which they were exposed to the threat of enemy action or fire, either directly or indirectly."

On March 23, 2012, platoon medic Pfc. Kyle Koblinski of Company A, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, accompanied his unit on patrol and was able to render medical aid to a baby Afghan girl whose father approached the patrol. Koblinski examined the child, determined she had stomach pains due to a grain-based diet and advised her father on how to treat her with additional fluids and citrus fruits. Pfc. Tyler King, a driver in the platoon said, "It shows a remarkable amount of trust from the Afghans. If they trust us with their children, all our efforts over the past ten years have not been in vain."

Soldiers of TF Viking welcomed a delegation of governors from South Dakota, Rhode Island and Michigan on April 19, 2012 at FOB Kunduz. Michigan Governor Rick Snyder was escorted to the airfield where he re-enlisted some Michigan Soldiers and he spoke to the Soldiers afterwards. Snyder said, "Our unemployment rate is now at 8.3 percent, which is a full three or four percent improvement since I took office. The auto industry is up, tourism is up, and agriculture is up, but we need to focus on helping our veterans when you return from this deployment." Snyder concluded with a Q and A session with the Soldiers. He then had a quick lunch with them at the dining facility before leaving FOB Kunduz.

TF Viking is still performing its security and advisory missions in RC-North, Afghanistan. The Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers are conducting daily combat operations in one of the most rugged and dangerous regions on the planet. TF Viking is expected to return to Michigan in the Fall of 2012.



TF Viking was visited by the RC-North commander, German Army Maj. Gen. Erich Pfeffer, on March 17, 2012. Pfeffer was briefed on Forward Operating Base Kunduz and ongoing operations by TF Viking Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Ryan Connelly. Pfeffer also received a brief tour of the FOB, stopping to visit the new dining facility, airfield and hangar. Photo by Staff Sgt. Megan Stephens

MOTOR CITY IMPORTS

3/238TH AVIATION REPRESENTS MICHIGAN



Did you know?

The Chinook is a multi-mission, heavy-lift transport helicopter.

Its primary mission is to move troops, artillery, ammunition, fuel, water, barrier materials, supplies and equipment on the battlefield.

Its secondary missions can include medical evacuation, disaster relief, search and rescue, aircraft recovery, fire fighting, parachute drops, heavy construction and civil development.

Story by Staff Sgt. Brandan Hodges

Detachment 1, Company B, 3/238th General Support Aviation Battalion is a Michigan Army National Guard unit comprised of 58 soldiers from Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens, Michigan. Det. 1, Company B, 3/238th is currently attached to Task Force Talon, 3-82nd Combat Aviation Brigade. They provide numerous aviation assets to the International Security Assistance Force. The majority of soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B are currently stationed at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Several other Company B soldiers are serving in critical maintenance roles with the Ohio portion of Company B at forward operating base Salerno as part of Task Force Wolfpack.

Det. 1, Company B conducts full-spectrum operations throughout much of RC-East. Det. 1, Company B utilizes their assigned CH-47D helicopters to transport a wide array of cargo both internally and externally in support of ISAF operations and personnel. They also transport U.S. and

other coalition troops and ISAF as well as other VIPs, both day and night.

Detachment 1, Company B was recently visited by the Adjutant General of Michigan, Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnaiss and the State Command Sergeant Major, Delbert Husband. Two flight crews had the privilege of transporting Toby Keith and his band to a forward operating base in RC-East for a USO performance then back to Bagram Air Field for his final performance of the tour.

“Due to the sensitive nature of ongoing operations in Afghanistan, most missions are classified and not cleared for public information,” said Company B Commander Capt. Jeremy Barnard. “We adapt daily to mission requests and our ongoing operations vary but in general terms, both the unit and equipment are performing exceptionally well.”

The unit is scheduled to return to Michigan in December this year completing a 12-month mobilization.

Military Intelligence Makes it Count

Story by Staff Sgt. Jason Boyd



Military Intelligence. When most people hear these two words together, whether they have served in the military or not, they always want to say, 'That seems like an oxymoron, doesn't it?' Most don't realize that without Military Intelligence, and the men and woman who perform their tasks; our military would not be as strong as it is today.

The Military Intelligence Corps is one of the basic branches of the United States Army. In 1971 the United States Army Intelligence was established at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., as the home of the Military Intelligence branch. On July 1, 1987 the Military Intelligence Corps was activated as a regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System. All U.S. Army Military Intelligence personnel are members of the Military Intelligence Corps.

The members of Company B, Military Intelligence put themselves in harm's way every day to ensure that our men and women in the villages and trekking through the mountains of Afghanistan have the most up-to-date intelligence to keep them safe.

Gathering intelligence in a hostile environment such as Afghanistan is not an easy task. The people that Company

B is trying to get the information from are intelligent and know most of the tricks of the trade.

That being said there are still ways to get information. The guard forces within detention facilities are able to use little bits and pieces of information they draw out during conversations or overhear from detainees to obtain vital lifesaving information.

Soldiers are also able to use sources in villages who risk their lives and their families in order to help NATO forces in the fight against the Taliban and terrorist regimes. Each part of information that is received by Company B is dissected, checked and verified before it ever leaves their office to go to higher headquarters.

Every member of the Company has a different job whether it is analyzing data, or just entering the weather

into the system; each piece of this is extremely vital.

Without the information that the men and woman of the MI Company get from both enemy and non-enemy combatants, many more lives could be lost on the battlefields of Afghanistan.



Clearing the Way

Engineers have daunting task

Story by Staff Sgt. Jason Boyd

There are times during war when buildings get destroyed and there are times when Soldiers enter a country with the task of helping rebuild after more than three decades of war. That is the case for the members of the Michigan National Guard's 507th, 1432nd, and 1433rd Engineer Companies. Members of these units have the daunting tasks of rebuilding schools, building hospitals and roads. On top of that, there is the more dangerous task of route clearance.

The job of clearing routes day in and day out is a dangerous and stressful one. Every day there is the possibility that the convoy could be struck by one of the hundreds of Improvised Explosive Devices that the insurgents have placed along the route the night before. Each day the convoys go out and clear a specific path so troops, equipment and civilians can navigate the route safely. Each night the insurgent's either replace the IED's on the same route or on another one in hopes that the engineers will be off guard. "We have to be on top of our game every day," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Acker Jr. "We have to stay alert and not become complacent in our tasks."

Every day brings a new challenge that could prevent the engineers from pushing through and clearing the way. Every day, however, they find a way to drive on and overcome as many obstacles as possible to ensure the safety of NATO

troops, Afghan forces and civilians.

The other mission of helping to rebuild a country that has been decimated by years of war is just as challenging. "The Afghan people are a proud people and like to do things themselves in their time and their way," said Sgt. 1st Class Acker. "They are also a hard working culture that is willing to learn and use what they have learned to help their people become successful in rebuilding their country."

Schools, hospitals and roads are just a few of the things in the country that need to be rebuilt. There are thousands of villages that have been destroyed during the ravages of war. Children play in mine fields left behind during the Cold War and there is a chance every day that one of them might be maimed or killed. With schools and other buildings available to keep the children occupied this might allow clearing crews more time to clear out those mine fields and save more lives.

Each time the engineers prepare their convoys to leave the wire they know that there is the possibility that someone might not make it back. There is the possibility that they might have to take a life to save a life of their own. They also know that what they are doing is going to save countless lives every day and while the loss of one life is too many, that is a risk that they are willing to take for the people of Afghanistan and their brothers in arms.

MP's Adapt and Overcome

Story courtesy of the 210th Military Police Battalion

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 210th Military Police Battalion, Task Force Warrior, arrived to Afghanistan in early May 2012 and immediately deployed into our respective missions. Task Force Warrior operates at five different locations in Regional Command-West and our primary mission is to serve as advisors to the Afghan Border Police along the Iranian and Turkmenistan borders. The HHD was originally scheduled to deploy as a Security Forces BN to Kuwait, however, through multiple mission changes, ended up with a mission to Afghanistan serving as multiple Security Force Assistance Teams. We also have a Liaison Officer at Camp Arena and an administrative/logistics support cell at Camp Stone. Working in RC-West (an Italian led coalition) along with Soldiers from Spain, Albania, and Lithuania has been a great experience. This mission has allowed Soldiers at every level to "step-up" and take on additional roles and responsibilities. We have administrative, logistics, legal specialists, and other

Soldiers who perform missions everyday outside of their traditional skill set and each one is making a difference and contributing to the betterment of Afghanistan. Since day one, Task Force Warrior has established genuine relationships with our Afghan counterparts and is building trust through words, actions, and perseverance. It has been a rewarding journey thus far and everyday has been an extraordinary experience. The 210th Military Police Battalion is scheduled to arrive home early 2013.



Never Stop Learning

Selfridge Airmen Earn Degrees in Afghanistan

Story by Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton

Call it Operation Algebra. Even when the building at Kandahar Air Base shook after another rocket attack, two Michigan Airmen kept working their equations.

Today, they hold degrees from the Community College of the Air Force to prove it.

Staff Sgt. Vanessa Rudolph and Staff Sgt. Jessica Homann, both munitions specialists with the 127th Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., deployed to Afghanistan together in fall 2011, along with a group of about 325 Michigan Airmen and their A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft. While at Kandahar, they decided to take a college algebra class during their off-duty hours. For both of the Airmen, it was the last class they needed to earn their CCAF degree.

Rudolph and Homann were among 21 Airmen of the 127th Wing at Selfridge who earned their CCAF and were recognized during a May 20 graduation ceremony at the base.

"We went to Afghanistan together and we earned our CCAF degree together, we were each pulling each other along," Homann said. "There were times we were in class and the building would be shaking from a rocket attack, but we kept on going."

Rudolph said finishing the degree was the end of a six-year journey from when she started work on the associate degree.

"I wanted to finish this to enhance my career in the Air Force to the best of my ability," she said.

Homann is a former elementary school teacher and took math in college, but not the correct algebra course that would transfer to the CCAF program.

"It was time to do this," she said.

The graduation ceremony was overseen by Technical Sgt. Vincent Peterson, who had officially retired from the Air National Guard the day before. He had been overseeing the CCAF program for the wing for about the past six years. He was invited by his supervisors to serve as the master of ceremonies for the graduation, despite his retirement.

"I'm going to miss this part of being in the Guard the most," Peterson said. "The people I have known and worked with in the Guard."

Col. Philip Sheridan, 127th Wing vice commander, was the graduation speaker. He encouraged the graduates to celebrate the day, but then to keep on learning.

"Get out of your comfort zone," he said. "Because that is when you learn the most - learn about a different person, different culture or different religion."

The CCAF is the nation's largest community college program. Enlisted members of the Air Force are automatically enrolled in the program and earn some of the credit required through formal Air Force technical schools and professional military education. Additional coursework is taken through traditional civilian colleges.



The 127th Wing 2012 CCAF graduates are:

Staff Sgt. Christos Batsios, Aviation Maintenance Technology
Technical Sgt. Nathan Burrows, Munitions Systems Technology
Technical Sgt. Glenn Fetty, Criminal Justice
Master Sgt. Richard Gordon, Human Resources Management
Staff Sgt. Brian Harris, Aviation Maintenance Technology
Staff Sgt. Jessica Homann, Transportation
Technical Sgt. Michael Kiewski, Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Holly Lecluyse, Aircrew Safety Systems Technology
Senior Airman Robert Lynch, Aircraft Armaments Systems Technology
Technical Sgt. Bradley McDonald, Allied Health Sciences
Staff Sgt. Eric McCulley, Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Daniel McKnight, Aviation Systems Technology
Senior Airman Shamika Moore, Construction Technology
Technical Sgt. Ricardo Perez, Aviation Maintenance Technology
Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Powell, Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Vanessa Rudolph, Transportation
Staff Sgt. Brad Shinn, Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Jared Shouey, Logistics
Staff Sgt. Robert Swenson, Aircraft Structural Maintenance
Technical Sgt. Joshua Wessel, two degrees, Maintenance Production Management and Aviation Maintenance Technology
Staff Sgt. Jarrit White, Aviation Maintenance Technology.



Teaching Afghans to Tell Their Own Story

Story by Loran Doane

Photo above: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. David Eichaker, 110th Airlift Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Battle Creek, Mich., currently assigned to the Mobile Public Affairs Advisory Team (MPAAT), Regional Support Command-West, NTM-A, assists members of the Afghan National Police (ANP) in Photoshop techniques, file management, and printing preference selections Regional Police Headquarters, Herat Province, Afghanistan. The ANP Public Affairs offices were recently outfitted with Nikon D5100 DSLR Cameras, SB-900 and SB-910 Speed lights, computers, printers, and CS5 Adobe Photoshop. The specialists became certified trainers after completing the MPAAT public affairs course. The certification course allows for training of future ANCOP public affairs specialist. (Courtesy photo/released)

Over the course of the last decade, the United States has fought a two-front war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

To meet the mission demands of a complex and ever changing battle space theater, commanders found it necessary to evolve the way they do business so that personnel assets with in-demand skill could be plugged into virtually any kind of military unit to give commanders greater flexibility in performing their missions.

This evolution gave rise to a greater emphasis on joint force commands, resulting in today's Airmen working more and more alongside Army, Navy, and Marine counterparts in ways they never expected.

Tech. Sgt. David E. Eichaker, a member of the 110th Airlift Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Mich., deployed last December as part of a Mobile Public Affairs Advisory Team (MPAAT), one of five such teams operating in Afghanistan since 2009.

Instead of being assigned to a major airlift command, Eichaker deployed as an individual on a Joint Expeditionary Tasking (JET) to Camp Stone, a small Army-operated forward operating base in Afghanistan's western most region.

Eichaker, a military photographer and Vicksburg, Mich., police officer,

just how to take a photograph; I'm able to show them in a way that is relative to their work as policemen."

Herat, the largest city in the western region, is headquarters for the 606th Zone Ansaar Police, the 3rd Brigade Afghan National Civil Order Police, and the Afghan National Army's 207th Corps."

"I teach both enlisted and officer public information personnel how to use a camera and imagery to visually tell stories and convey messages to the Afghan public," Eichaker said. "The police are doing great things each and every day. They are finding and arresting insurgents placing improvised explosive devices on the highways, they are capturing and destroying weapons caches in large numbers, and they are jailing those involved in criminal activity. It is important that the people of Herat and the world know the good things that the local police here in Afghanistan are doing to make the city a safer place."

The MPAAT team typically trains with the Afghans three to five times per week. When not providing one-on-one training, the team prepares lesson plans and training material for subsequent classes.

Eichaker explained that MPAAT's



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. David Eichaker of the 110th Airlift Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Battle Creek, Mich., currently assigned to the Mobile Public Affairs Advisory Team (MPAAT), Regional Support Command-West, NTM-A, mentors Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) public affairs specialist Sgt. Zariff, at Herat Province, Afghanistan on. Sgt. Zariff was one of seven students that became certified trainers though MPAAT's public affairs course. (Courtesy photo/ released)

“To see previously untrained PIOs now effectively using their photos and products as a weapon against the enemy is truly gratifying.”

found himself not taking photographs for the Air Force, but working with the U.S. Army to train members of the Afghan National Security Force on public affairs matters and the use and maintenance of modern camera equipment.

"This deployment is rewarding in that I'm able to utilize both my military and civilian skills to develop effective public affairs capabilities within the ANSF," said Eichaker.

"I'm able to show them more than

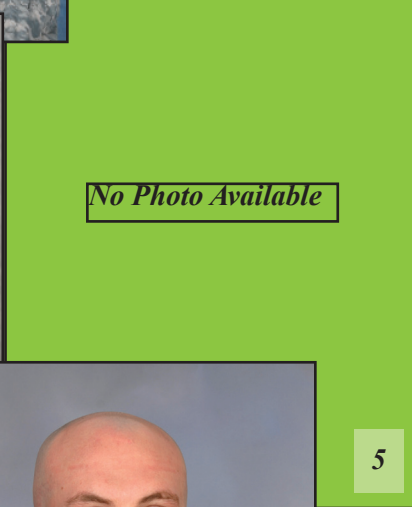
ultimate goal is to make the training sustainable and enduring so that future training responsibilities could be handed over to the Afghan police themselves.

"The train-the-trainer philosophy is like the old "teach-a-man to fish" story," explained Eichaker. "We could continue to provide public affairs instruction but it really isn't a long term solution. We have certified six police public information officers as trainers who will now go on to train more PIOs,

who will then do the same thing."

"When I became an Air Force photographer, I never imagined that I would ever be given the opportunity to share my love of photography in such an important way," Eichaker reflected. "To see previously untrained PIOs now effectively using their photos and products as a weapon against the enemy is truly gratifying."

Outstanding Soldiers Of The Year, 2011



The Michigan Army National Guard presents the following outstanding Soldiers of the Year for 2011:

1-Gen. Douglas Macarthur Leadership Award
Capt. Joseph Cannon
HHC, 1-125th Infantry Bn.

2-NCO of the Year
Sgt. Jay Goldsborough
1071st Maintenance Co.

3-Recruiter of the Year
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Ploucha
Recruiting and Retention Bn.

4-Warrant Officer of the Year
Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Accavitti
HHC, 46th Military Police Company

5-MG Earl R. Stewart Medal
Spc. Donovan M. Klemkoski
D. Co., 237th BSB 37th IBCT

6-Soldier of the Year
Spc. Matthew Kosloski
126th Network Signal Company

Outstanding Airmen Of The Year, 2011



*The Michigan Air National Guard presents the following
outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2011:*

*1-Airman of the Year
Airman 1st Class Trenton Broughton
217th Communications Squadron*

*2-Recruiter of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Shirkey
127th Wing, Forward Support Squadron*

*3-Honor Guard Member of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Rodriguez
110th Civil Engineer Squadron*

*4-First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Rodney Thompson
Alpena, CRTC*

*5-Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Donald Cassada
110th Maintenance Squadron*

*6-NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. David Bowers
191st Air Maintenance Squadron*



Retirees

Going paperless with the TRDP

Enrollees in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP)* can now sign up for paperless Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements. Instead of mailing enrollees a paper EOB, Delta Dental will send an email alert whenever a new statement becomes available—and enrollees can access and view their EOBs online through the self-service Consumer Toolkit®, at their convenience.

There are many reasons to sign up for paperless EOBs. Paperless EOBs are

- Convenient: Enrollees are notified by email as soon as a new claim has been processed and can view their processed claim information immediately instead of waiting for their paper EOB to arrive in the mail.
- Clutter-free: Enrollees will not have any more papers to keep track of or file.
- Secure: Electronic records are maintained and available to the enrollee for seven years.
- Good for the environment: Electronic EOBs reduce paper waste and the emissions that go along with printing and mailing paper copies.

Signing up for paperless EOBs is easy. The enrollee simply logs on to the Consumer Toolkit® at www.ddfgptoolkits.com/ipWeb/appmanager/ct/desktop, then selects the “Go Paperless” option. Enrollees who have not yet registered to use the Consumer Toolkit® can visit the “Current Enrollee” section of the website at www.trdp.org/enr/index.html, select “Manage Your Benefits Online” at the top right-hand side of the page, and follow the instructions to register as a new user; then, all they have to do is log on to the toolkit using their new username and password, and select the “Go Paperless” option. Once enrollees receive an email notification that a claim has been processed, they just click on the link in the email and log on to the Consumer Toolkit® to view their latest EOB.

Those who are not yet enrolled in the TRDP can enroll online at www.trdp.org/pro/enroll.html and provide their email address to receive their new enrollee Welcome Packet materials and future EOB statements electronically, as well.

In addition to this new paperless EOB feature, the TRDP already offers enrollees the ability to view and print program materials and forms; receive monthly and quarterly program updates via email; contact Delta Dental electronically by completing the online Customer Service Inquiry Form, and receive a prompt response to their inquiry by email; locate a network dentist using the online Dentist Directory; and manage their TRDP enrollment using the myriad of self-service options available through the TRDP website, automated telephone system, and Consumer Toolkit®.

**Only the subscriber or primary enrollee can sign up for electronic Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements. All EOB statement notifications for all family members enrolled under the subscriber or primary enrollee will be sent to the subscriber or primary enrollee's email address.*

HRC Address Change

Human Resources Command has moved from St Louis, MO to Fort Knox, KY. The updated address and phone number for Human Resources Command is:

1-888-276-9472

ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RC

1600 Spearhead Division Ave, DEPT 420

Fort Knox, KY 40122-5402

Important Phone Numbers

HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center: 1-800-525-0102

VA Regional Office: 1-800-827-1000

Fort McCoy Retirement Service Office: 1-800-538-9552

DFAS: 1-800-321-1080

DEERS: 1-800-538-9552

TRICARE North Region: 1-877-874-2273

TRICARE for Life: 1-866-773-0404

TRICARE Retiree Dental: 1-888-838-8737

State of Michigan Military Retirement

Administrator Retires

As of 02 March, Mr Ken Baldwin will be retiring and Kathy Enderle will be taking over as the State of Michigan Military Retirement Administrator. She will NOT be assisting with any Federal Retirement applications or issues. She can be reached at (517) 481-7647 or kathy.enderle@us.army.mil or enderlek@michigan.gov for State of Michigan Military Retirement issues (\$50/month at age 55). Ms. Enderle also maintains the mailing addresses of retirees for the Wolverine Guard. If you are a retiree and would like to receive the magazine please contact her.

Will Work for Veterans

Employment resources for servicemembers and their families

Jobs contributor, Staff Sgt. Thomas McAuliffe

VetJobs.com

VetJobs was established in 1999 following extensive research on job and resume sites catering to the military market. The research indicated there was a gap in sites which assisted employers in identifying the transitioning military and veteran candidate.

VetJobs is operated by a seasoned management team of professionals to assist companies, recruiting firms and hiring authorities to successfully reach the military market.

VetJobs is owned and operated by veterans for veterans. In January 2000, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States exclusively sponsored and purchased ten percent of the company.

For more information visit www.vetjobs.com.

Michigan Talent Bank

Whether you are looking for a job or looking for employees, the Michigan Talent Bank is the place to be. If you are a job seeker, search more than 38,000 new job openings monthly and post your resume so more than 55,000 employers can find it. If you are an employer, sign up to search more than 600,000 resumes for the ideal candidate and post your jobs to let seekers find you. Best of all, it's free for all users. Try us today at www.michworks.org/mtb.

Veterans Job Bank

The Veterans Job Bank powered by NRD.gov provides Veterans with a central source for identifying Veteran-committed employment opportunities and assists America's employers in identifying qualified Veterans. A key part of the White House's ongoing commitment to improve access to employment opportunities for transitioning servicemembers and veterans, it facilitates access to hundreds of thousands of private-sector job openings specifically targeted at veterans.

The veterans job bank returns job opportunities based on search criteria entered by the user. Powered by a Google search, jobs are drawn from various job boards that have posted or specifically tagged jobs for veterans.

Begin your job search by visiting the Veterans Job Bank. <https://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/jobsearch/index>.

A Monster.com survey finds employers and veterans agree: Military personnel have civilian job skills. Language, however, is a problem. One hurdle is translating military jargon.

"The unemployment rate for young combat veterans - especially National Guard members - could reach 50 percent in the next two years," warns veteran employment expert, Ted Daywalt. Daywalt is the president and CEO of VETJOBS.com.

Typing your resume? In Microsoft Word go to File > New and select the Resume category. This will provide you with templates to create a professional looking resume.

Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces was created as a way to provide America's employers with a direct link to some of America's finest employees - servicemembers and their families. Through the partnership, servicemembers can leverage their military training and experience for career opportunities in today's civilian job market with national, regional and local Employer Partners.

My Next Move

My Next Move for veterans is a web-based interactive tool for U.S. veterans to learn more about their career options. Users can:

- Explore over 900 different careers and see important information including skills, tasks, salaries and employment outlook on easy-to-read career reports.
- Look at related apprenticeships and training, and search actual job openings.
- Find careers through a keyword search; by browsing industries; or through a military transition search that recommends civilian careers relevant to their military experience.

Vets interested in specific careers can get exploring quickly with an intuitive keyword search; over 900 career options are only a few keystrokes away. Users looking for a broader range of opportunities can browse industries, exploring over a dozen; each featuring a range of careers to choose from, including those in the green economy and with a bright outlook for job opportunities.

Career reports display related job titles from military classification systems, so veterans can compare careers using familiar terms. They can also enter their current military job code or title into the site's military transition search, and see a list of civilian careers that have similar tasks or requirements.

Visit:
<http://www.mynextmove.org/vets>.

www.michigan.gov/dmva 17

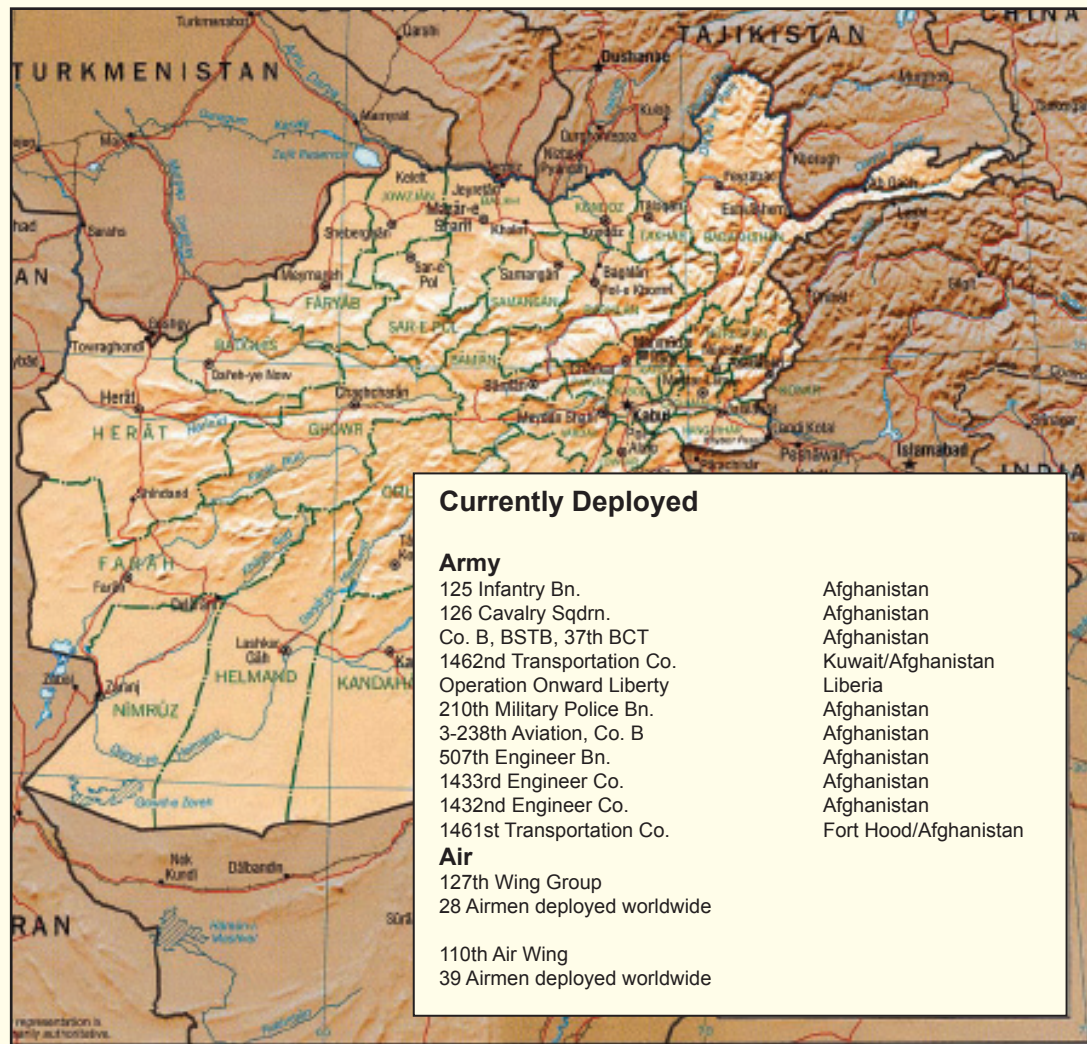
Michigan **Army** and **Air** National Guard Promotions

February 2, 2012 through June 1, 2012

Lt. Col.	Rogers, Ricky	Butler, Gretchen	Taylor, Emily	Shepherd, James J.	Niese, Bradley D.
Densham, Timothy	Russell, Keith	Byl, Martha	Taylor, Vincent	Klinger, Mitchell J.	Gonzalez, Juan M.
Smith, Daniel	Russell, Marcie	Carlton, Timothy	Vickers, Tyler	Sobran, Michael E.	Technical Sgt.
Verbanic, Bartholomew	Schmiesing, Carla	Cathey, Ashley	Welcenbach, Mollie	1st Lt.	Kramer, Andrew R.
Maj.	Waits, Michelle	Choyce, Oliver	Wright, David	Pridgeon, Kenzi A.	Cooper, Wesley K.
Laskowski, Jonathan	Walker, David	Conn, Matthew	Spc.	Hunt, Elena	Taylor, Destiny R.
Peplinski, Floyd	Staff Sgt.	Cooper, Latonja	Arraut, Kenneth	Conrad, Katherine B.	Campbell, Michael D.
Capt.	Belen, Holly	Cote, Grace	Brancheau, Jon	Best, Benjamin A.	Lorenz, Anthony J.
Avery, Delbert	Bockhol, Warren	Darling, Marcellus	Dreysse, Cody	Hull, Brian R.	Neville, Timothy B.
Bennett, David	Elegeert, Mark	Dettmer, Jonathan	Horton, Martell	Gee, Cailean T.	Quintano, Matthew N. J.
Bowles, Joshua	Fairbotham, Mark	Duggan, Sean	King, Tyler	Stommen, Jacob J.	Nye, Blaine A.
Daugherty, Daniel	Field, Bradley	Erkard, Gerald	Lang, Adam	Peplinski, Anthony M.	Shouey, Jared I.
Kennedy, Andrea	Fisk, Wesley	Everman, Charles	Latreille, Kevin	2nd Lt.	Bocek, Anthony J.
Mason, Peter	Fitzgerald, Kyle	Fairfield, Marcus	Meurer, Lane	Lockwood, Justin M.	Wheat, Shawn L.
Mayhew, Clifford	Fouty, Miles	Fisher, Nicolas	Nellist, Leland	Blumline, Brian G.	Kelly, Timothy S.
Mitchell, Ian	Gray, Kimberly	Fourman, Desaray	Newman, Aaron	Chief Master Sgt.	Turner, Keith G.
Snook, Brian	Herrick, Shane	Fuller, Cody	Nicholson, Alisha	Mcfadden, Denine L.	Collins, Matthew C.
Stottlemeyer, James	Jones, Kenny	Gates, Floyd	Ostrander, David	Hart, James E.	Schoettle, Daniel J.
Wallace, Ross	Kovacs, George	Gomez, Johanna	Reed, Ashley	Smith, Donald K.	Dillow, Randel W.
Webb, Brian	Lanway, Lonny	Grove, Matthew	Riggie, Christopher	Liggins, Anthony C.	Lindsay Apple, T. D.
2nd Lt.	Lavigne, Carl	Hall, Brandon	Rogers, Brandon	Senior Master Sgt.	Woodson, Marcus L.
Anderson, Michael	Letts, Steven	Hammond, Gregory	Rogers, Tyreque	Geliske, Barry S.	Matte, Sean D.
Dejong, Timothy	Mason, Daniel	Hatfield, Travis	Shann, Thomas	Selon, Thomas R.	Staff Sgt.
Murrell, Comalita	Mattingly, Mary	Howland, Brock	Slater, Scott	Boyd, Ethan S.	Stoutenburg, Stevan
Root, Aaron	Mckinney, Robert	Johnson, Michael	Vancil, Haley	Master Sgt.	Scalici, Michael P.
Warrant Officer 3	Merchant, Michael	Keown, Kerry	Wier, Sean	Kerr, Michael D.	Mousseau, M.
Teeple, Linda	Nicholson, Junator	Kirchoff, Fred	Pfc.	Packer, Michael J.	Anderer, Greg R.
Warrant Officer 2	Oleksiak, Alicia	Librojo, Anthony	Cooney, Mitchell	Meinke, Jennifer L.	Kurr, Katilyn L.
Austin, Thomas	Perez, Richard	Lyons, Miles	Dausman, Jeffrey	Wolford, Erik M.	Wolcott, Chad D.
Ratliff, James	Perk, Joshua	Mallon, Michael	Egan, Thadeus	Senior Airman	Hewitt, Steven K.
Master Sgt.	Piercy, Benjamin	Martin, Marlin	Mercado, Felix	Salazar, Daniel A. Jr.	Fisher, Lukas H.
Berdan, Todd	Priest, Frederick	Mauchmar, Ryan	Person, Joshua	Underwood, Jessie F.	Sommer, Jacob R.
Dipzinski, Steven	Rhinehart, Paul	Mcgee, Jerold	Selfridge, Jeffrey	Leonard, Brian A.	Bluthardt, Joshua R.
Hoag, Michael	Rossman, Brian	Mchaney, Shimiko	Williams, Kenneth	Reichel, John D.	Dejong, Christena R.
Kurian, Daniel	Shaw, Erick	Milnes, Kevin	Pvt.	Wagster, Robert E.	Westra, Michael S.
Mayne, Aaron	Sheldon, Scott	Newcomer, Matthew	Brooks, Kevin	Johnson, Byrne D.	Puente, Anthony M.
Merriweather, Richard	Suchek, Steven	Newell, Donald	Emersen, Shane	Apigo, Marvin S. Jr.	Airman 1st Class
Tissue, Dorothy	Whitehead, Frank	Prado, Javier	Col.	Borden, Bruce M.	Coats, Kylee Jo
Vaughan, Rick	Wilson, Scott	Reynolds, Steven	Lt. Col.		Airman
Sgt. 1st Class	Wiltfang, Eric	Rice, Nicholas	Risko, Robert S.		Bagley, Stephanie D.
Bretz, Joseph	Sgt.	Sandoval, Noel	Mcmahon, John T. Jr		
Ellis, Casey	Atwood, Paul	Sayler, Joshua	Seeley, Robert A.		
Goke, John	Barnhardt, Robert	Schroeder, Michael	Maj.		
Jones, Kevin	Beebe, Daniel	Scissons, Joshua	Salaniuk, Christopher		
Kuehne, Aaron	Bishop, Cathi	Sharp, Ryan	Simpson, Erik L.		
Myotte, William	Bolf, Kimberly	Smith, Anthony	Capt.		
Proulx, Justin	Bolyea, Johnny	Strandberg, Jerry	Holm, Jason R.		
Pulver, William	Brock, Jasmine	Stultz, Christopher			
	Brooks, Jordan	Tanis, James			

TAPS

Pvt. Patrick Bajor, (ret), 56, Jan. 6, 2012
 Master Sgt. Arthur Lebombard, (ret), Jan. 29, 2012
 Lt. Col. John Birberick, (ret), Jan. 30, 2012
 Sgt. Orville Planck, (ret), Feb. 3, 2012
 Maj. William Brennan, (ret), Feb. 5, 2012
 Col. Thomas Egan, (ret), Feb. 5, 2012
 Sgt. Maj. Sharlene Rotman, (ret), Feb. 16, 2012
 Plt. Sgt. Bobby Simpson, (ret), Feb. 22, 2012
 Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Graham, (ret), Feb. 23, 2012
 Spc. Richard Piotrowski, (ret), Feb. 23, 2012
 Sgt. 1st Class Everett Willis, (ret), March 21, 2012
 Staff Sgt. Larry Farnsworth, (ret), March 27, 2012
 Capt. Kenneth Champagne, (ret), March 31, 2012
 Master Sgt. James Parkhouse, (ret), April 1, 2012
 Lt. Col. Harold Straub, (ret), April 4, 2012
 Spc. Jeffery Horrell, (ret), April 10, 2012
 Sgt. 1st Class Harold Arndt, (ret), April 26, 2012
 Sgt. 1st Class Mark Fisher, (ret), May 4, 2012
 Col. Dirck Terwilliger, (ret), May 12, 2012
 Staff Sgt. Jerry Richards, (ret), unknown
 Capt. Frank Rudolph, (ret), unknown
 Plt. Sgt. George Tunningly, (ret), unknown
 Capt. William J. Strye, (ret), unknown



Sgt. Kyle Brenton McClain
of Shelby Township, Michigan

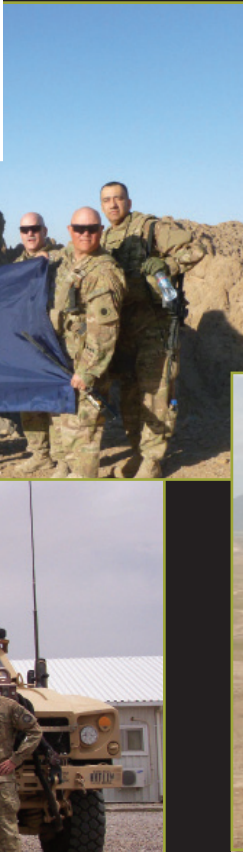
1433rd Engineer Company

McClain was conducting a route clearance operation near Salim Aka, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated.

December 2, 1986 - August 1, 2012

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Michigan Army and Air National Guard
3411 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lansing, Michigan 48906

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